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"GERONIMO" MAKES NEW OCEANOGRAPHIC DISCOVERIES

The discovery of a new ocean current is relatively rare, with only a few having been found during the past 50 years, the BCF official added.

Oceanographer Paul N. Sund, who headed the scientific contingent aboard the Geronimo, said the ocean "hot spot" was found beginning about 30 miles southeast of Cape Three Points, Ghana, early in February.

The hot ocean area measured about 60 miles in diameter and extended to a depth of about 30 feet. The water temperature in the area was 88 degrees, six degrees hotter than the surrounding ocean.

Sund said the warmer area was virtually without motion and may have resulted from a surrounding counter-clockwise eddy.

The oceanographer said there was an unusually large concentration of tuna at one point on the edge of the hot spot. He said this apparently was associated with an adjacent upwelling of water from the ocean floor which brought nutrients to the surface.

The hot spot disappeared 10 days after it was discovered by the Geronimo. Sund said further study will be made in the area to learn if the heated water recurs. He said tuna fishing in the area of the discovery is traditionally good, and this may be related to a recurrence of the warmer sedentary water.

Geronimo's cruise was part of Equalant 3, an oceanographic study carried out by a number of nations participating in the International Cooperative Investigation of the Tropical Atlantic.

Other vessels which participated in the most recent study of ocean currents and fishery resources in the area off the African Coast were sponsored by the University of Miami and the Governments of Ghana, Congo-Brazzaville, Spain, Republic of Ivory Coast and the Soviet Union.

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